

b) at least one subsequent second step b) in which a gas fraction containing a portion of the resultant hydrogen sulphide contained in the total effluent from said first hydrodesulfurization step a) and an effluent that is partially depleted in hydrogen sulphide are recovered,

c) at least one third step c) in which at least a portion of the hydrogen sulphide-partially depleted effluent from step b) and hydrogen are passed over a catalyst disposed in a fixed bed comprising, on a mineral support, at least one metal or compound of a metal from group VIB of the periodic table in a quantity, expressed as the weight of the metal with respect to the weight of the finished catalyst, of about 0.5% to 40%, at least one non noble metal or compound of a non noble metal from group VIII of said periodic table, in a quantity, expressed as the weight of the metal with respect to the weight of the finished catalyst, of about 0.1% to 30%, wherein the quantity of catalyst used in the first step is about 5% to about 40% by weight of the total quantity of catalyst used in said process.

9. (Twice Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst used in step a) and that used in step c) each further comprise at least one element selected from the group consisting of silicon, phosphorous and boron or one or more compounds of said elements.

17. (Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the catalyst support of steps a) or c) is selected from the group consisting of: alumina, silica, silica-alumina, zeolite, magnesia, titanium oxide, and mixtures thereof.

Please **ADD** the following new claims:

--21. The process according to claim 1, wherein said hydrodesulphurising results in a content of less than 10 ppm weight sulfur.--